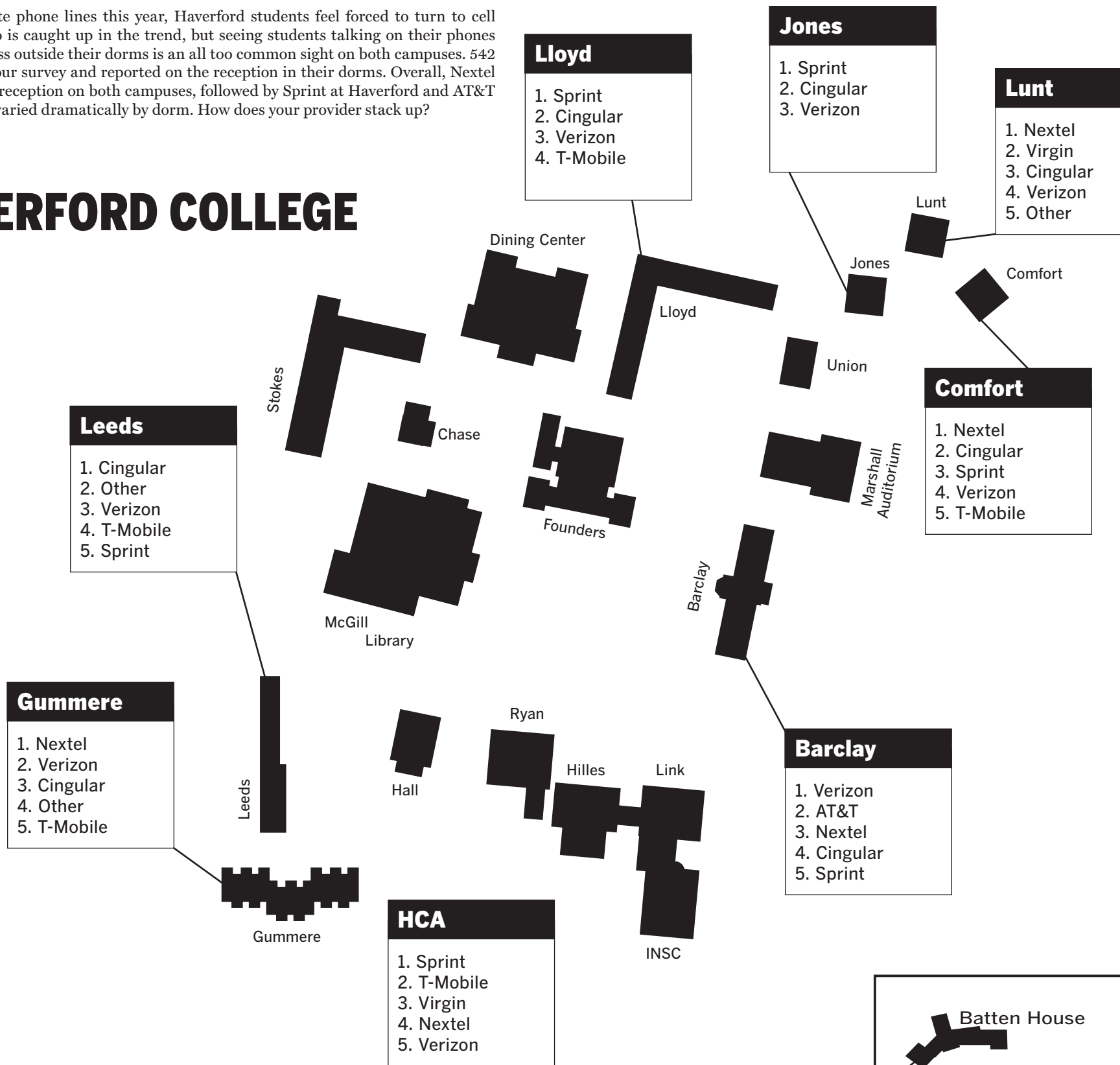


Can You Hear Me Now?

THE BATTLE FOR MORE BARS

Left without private phone lines this year, Haverford students feel forced to turn to cell phones. Bryn Mawr too is caught up in the trend, but seeing students talking on their phones while pacing on the grass outside their dorms is an all too common sight on both campuses. 542 students responded to our survey and reported on the reception in their dorms. Overall, Nextel users reported the best reception on both campuses, followed by Sprint at Haverford and AT&T at Bryn Mawr. Results varied dramatically by dorm. How does your provider stack up?

HAVERFORD COLLEGE



HC Students Not Consulted About Telephone Changes

FROM PHONES, PAGE 1
-mittee and Students' Council was held, Crosman did not attend.

Housing Committee Co-Chair Zach Zeli '07 and two other committee members met with Crosman near the end of last year.

"We felt that if students elected to live together in a suite that they wouldn't mind sharing a phone line," Zeli said in an e-mail message.

"I was expressing my feelings on the issue and not necessarily reflecting those of the entire student body."

"Cell phone service is steadily increasing on campus,"

Zeli said, and "in five years the system will likely be entirely obsolete. With this in mind, we left the room with the feeling that it

"dummy numbers," Crosman said, but that requires college-owned equipment that would cost around \$500,000.

Despite the proliferation of complaints on the GO/Boards about phone lines without a dial tone and incorrect Dormnet listings of telephone extensions, Crosman said that student complaints were on par with those of past years.

"We need feedback. If there aren't enough lines in a suite, we'll see how it goes, and maybe put some back in," he said. "But we don't want to be spending money if it's not needed."

"But we don't want to be spending money if it's not needed"

Allen Crossman
Business Manager

may be possible to condense the number of phone lines."

It would be possible to cut down on the number of outside lines and still have individual campus extensions, known as

BMC Drops STC Services, Brings Phone Service in House

By Elise Garber
STAFF WRITER

This summer, Bryn Mawr College dropped its relationship with STC Services, the College's former campus telephone billing agent. The College has now made the services "in-house," meaning they will fund the campus telephone service through the school without an outside provider. The school will also allow students to opt out on owning a landline phone, which has been required in the past. They have the new option of using a landline telephone or just a cell phone. The end of the partnership with STC Services also halted the monthly bill students were given, which paid for the phone and internet services.

While the billing service is gone, the technological services haven't changed; students can still use their dorm phones for calls and voicemail. Now, however, students can choose whether they only want a landline, only a cellular phone, or both. Janet Scannell, Director of Academic and Administrative Computing, said that a good percentage of students have chosen to maintain both

contact lines.

Angie Sheets, Director of Residential Life at Bryn Mawr College says the reasoning behind this switch is multi-faceted. The switch allows Bryn Mawr to become current with technology and apace with other schools. The use of cell phones on campus has been on the increase for some time, and many other colleges and universities have switched from landline-only plans to allowing students to use their cell phones as the main contact line. Janet Scannell also explained that in the past, some students simply wouldn't set up their voicemail boxes for the landlines, so the expenses were superfluous.

There is also financial aspect to the switch. Scannell pointed out that it was not inexpensive to provide phone service to the entire campus and she hopes that this move will keep costs down to a degree. Only time will tell whether this system will be, in fact, a better financial way to handle the situation. The cost of maintaining landlines for students has risen, since more people are using cell phones, because finding a service has become more difficult and, consequently, more expensive for

the school. As Scannell explained, the monthly bill "felt like a barrier," and people should now have an easier time "staying in touch."

Sheets was quick to say that the end of the relationship with STC Services, while positive, is not leaving Bryn Mawr College in a stable state yet. Since the system is in its early stages, there are probably a few kinks that still

monthly bill from STC is no longer a problem for Bryn Mawr students. "I'm so relieved that I don't have to send in that bill every month," said Customs Person Skye Rhodes-Robinson BMC '08. "It was ridiculous that it wasn't just part of our tuition, and that everyone had to pay, even if they shared a phone line or didn't even use it."

"It was ridiculous that everyone had to pay, even if they shared a phone line or didn't even use it"

Skye Rhodes-Rodinson BMC '08

Sheets said that Bryn Mawr recognized the confusion over the ten dollar monthly bill; she went on to say that she understood that it "felt like a thorn in peoples' sides." She could sense students were equally excited to be able to use their

cell phones for on-campus communication and to have the choice of a landline. She also said that the response so far from students has been especially positive, and she "hopes students appreciate the College's funding this service now."

The changes have been constantly discussed over the past two years, and for the time being it's simply "still early," as Ms. Sheets pointed out, to see how the pieces will fall into place. Right now, it is slightly more difficult

to contact people in general via telephone because not everyone has her voicemail set up yet and the student directory has yet to be published.

During the summer, incoming Mawrters were sent forms to let the College know what plan they preferred, and the telephone number they listed as their main line will be published in the Bryn Mawr directory. Sheets was a little hesitant of having cell phone numbers published in the directory and explained these feelings as a possible privacy issue. The numbers are obviously personal information, and students, she explained, may not realize the consequences of having that information published just yet. She said that the College will soon find out if having a published list of many students' cell phone numbers proves to be a problem.

Sheets added that Bryn Mawr is examining the possibility of partnering with a cell phone service vendor to get good reception all over campus and a competitive rate for students. For now, the change is simply reflected in the absence of a monthly bill and the option to have a cell phone or landline, or to have the use of both.

BRYN MAWR COLLEGE

